Dear Colleagues,

As I complete this update, I am thinking of those impacted by recent flooding and Hurricane Ian. I hope that all of you and your families are safe and healthy. This also reminds me how PAs rise to the occasion and volunteer or serve in disaster response or in emergency medicine. Thank you to all of our colleagues who put themselves on the line to care for our communities in times of need. PAs truly Go Beyond!

We are actively preparing for Nashville. Please ensure that your delegation is in compliance and send in your updates. Now is the time to be looking at the 5-year policy review and finding what gaps exist in our policy. Start working on your bylaws and non-bylaws resolutions.

PA Week is upon us. I hope that you are all recognized and celebrated for the incredible work that you do every day. Take a moment to share a thank you with your PA colleagues. Also, please post PA Week messages to you social media so that we can all help spread the good word about PAs.

**HOD 2023: Nashville**

The 2023 HOD meeting will be held in Nashville, TN from Friday, May 19 through Sunday, May 21. I want to give you notice now of a change in the HOD schedule for 2023. The allotted meeting time on Sunday will now be 9:00 am until 3:00 pm to allow more time that morning to review reference committee reports, collaborate with your colleagues to develop amendments, etc. Please plan to account for a later departure when making your travel reservations. HOD and Conference registration is scheduled to open the week of October 16th. Stay tuned for more information!

**PA Week**

AAPA is preparing to celebrate National PA Week from October 6 - 12, which is dedicated to recognizing the profession, the work you do as a PA, and your contributions to the nation’s health. This year, our goal for PA Week is to elevate the profession by amplifying our new PA brand, PAs Go Beyond, which highlights how PAs go above and beyond to serve their patients, communities, and the profession.

As a member of the House of Delegates, you have already demonstrated your commitment to AAPA and the PA profession. As an AAPA volunteer leader, I am counting on you this PA Week to help others recognize that PAs are rigorously educated and trained, dedicated to patient-centered care, and valuable members of today’s modern healthcare team. By taking just a few minutes during PA Week to reach out
to your networks – both professional and personal -- you can help amplify this message and advocate for our profession, your fellow PAs, and ultimately, the patients we serve.

You can help share this message – how PAs Go Beyond – by utilizing a series of digital assets available in our PAs Go Beyond Toolkit:

- Share our social media posts and graphics (use the hashtag #PAsGoBeyond and tag us @AAPAorg)
- Utilize our op-ed template or PA Week Proclamation
- Send our PA Week logo file to your employer for use in an internal newsletter or an all-staff email
- Download our How PAs Go Beyond flyer (see the Spanish version) and Facts About PAs flyer (also available in Spanish) for placement around your workplace
- Encourage your colleagues to use these resources to share stories about PAs who go beyond!

Thank you for your leadership and support, and please help us recognize the outstanding work of PAs across the nation during PA Week, October 6 - 12, 2022!

**CO Delegate & Officer Submissions**

With ALL current HOD delegate terms having ended on June 30th, each CO is required to submit their new delegates and officers for the 2022-23 leadership year, which began July 1. If your CO has not yet conducted your delegate elections, to ensure important communications continue to reach your organization, please do the following:

- resubmit your chief delegate from the 2022 HOD
- email Tom Shoemaker (tshoemaker@aapa.org) informing him of the scheduled date for your elections.

The links to the appropriate submission forms are below. There is no need to submit both forms if the CO Annual Update Form is completed. Please ensure email addresses are current and correct to ensure we are able to communicate important HOD information with you in a timely manner.

- CO Annual Update Form (for submitting Officers & Delegates)
- Delegate Notification Form (if only submitting Delegates)

As a reminder, AAPA policy for CO compliance purposes states all officers of a chapter, recognized specialty organization, or caucus are required to be and remain Fellow members of AAPA for the duration of their term in office. The same Fellow membership requirement exists for CO delegates. You can check your CO’s officer and delegate membership statuses [here](#).
**HOD Volunteer Opportunities Update and Recent Appointments**

The timeline for recruiting HOD volunteers has been modified. Rather than seeking volunteers for all HOD opportunities at the beginning of the leadership year, we will be putting out calls for specific positions at a time relative to when the position/group would begin their work. For example, the call for reference committee chairs/members/secretaries will occur in early winter. Those opportunities will be announced in the monthly Speaker’s Update and available on the [HOD Volunteer page](#).

On behalf of the House Officers, I would like to thank those who stepped up to serve on the 2022-23 Standing Rules Committee:

- Chair: Jeremy Nelson, PA, DFAAPA, Iowa
- Jacqi Kernaghan, PA-C, DFAAPA, Sergeant-at-Arms, Pennsylvania
- Brendan Lucas, PA-C, Tennessee
- Amelia Maurer, PA, Connecticut
- Melinda Rawcliffe, MPAS, DMSc, PA-C, Arizona
- Kimberly Sapre, DMSc, PA-C, CAQ-EM, Virginia
- Greg Selasky, PA-C, West Virginia
- Rachel Weinzimmer, MS, PA-C, CAQ-EM, CPAAPA, Colorado
- Student Representative: Alec Williams, Quinnipiac University

**Looking Ahead**

As noted in my [May 10th](#) and [March 28th](#) News Central articles, the House of Delegates is an integral component of AAPA’s governing structure, not just a once-a-year meeting. I encourage each of you to actively engage to ensure that our policy strengthens PAs to best serve our patients. Just because your CO does not receive a policy review assignment from the House Officers, does not preclude you from actively participating in a careful examination of our existing policy. The policy review assignments for the 2022-23 leadership year are available [here](#). Each of you is invited and encouraged to proactively contact the primary reviewing body to collaborate and offer perspectives to inform the action that will be brought forward at the 2023 HOD Meeting.

The healthcare ecosystem evolves around us, so too must our policy evolve. Now, more than ever, it is critical that we ensure our policy is relevant and timely. To be useful, it must reflect our current healthcare environment – what you and your fellow PAs experience every day as you serve your patients. YOU – HOD delegates – are best situated to bring forward issues in the healthcare system that need to be addressed via policy to ensure PAs are positioned to meet the needs of patients. I invite you to evaluate not just policy that is up for five-year review, but also empower you to review all policy and identify gaps you see based on what you are experiencing in your day-to-day practice.
My fellow House Officers and I look forward to continuing our quarterly calls with Chief Delegates to develop important relationships and to facilitate open and transparent communication. Share any questions, concerns, etc. with your Chief Delegate to bring to these calls.

We will also be conducting calls with new or newer delegates to orient them to the HOD and their roles. These calls are designed to increase engagement at various times throughout the leadership year to share information about what should be happening at that time and answer any questions. This expands on the annual delegate orientation held just before the HOD meeting. The first call has been scheduled for Tuesday, November 8th at 8 pm ET. Please mark this date on your calendar if you are a new or newer delegate. A calendar invitation containing the Zoom information to join the call will be sent to all delegates on November 1.

Please feel free to reach out to any of the House Officers if you have suggestions, concerns, or questions as we move towards the 2023 HOD meeting.

Join AAPA’s October Virtual Town Hall

Take part in AAPA’s virtual Town Hall Meeting next month to hear live updates from your Academy’s leadership. Tune in to the presentations and participate in a member Q&A, where presenters will respond to questions in real time! Register by October 25 to lend your voice to this important conversation.

PAs Go Beyond – Brand Launch

I want to ensure that each of you know how to access monthly updates from President Orozco, quarterly updates from CEO Gables, highlights of other volunteer leaders and PAs who Go Beyond! Never has there been a greater need for PAs in caring for patients. More than 94 million Americans lack adequate access to primary care, and 151 million Americans lack adequate access to mental health care . . . while the healthcare workforce is disrupted and shrinking due to a variety of factors such as the impact of the pandemic and burnout.

The new PA brand – and the resources you will find here will provide you with the tools you need to live the PA brand every day – with your patients, with your friends and family, and as a leader in your community. Here are some simple actions you can take to live the new PA brand:

- Download and share the graphics and posts on your own social media networks.
- Use the fact sheet – also available in Spanish -- as guidance when you are representing the PA profession.
- Print the How PAs Go Beyond flyer to use at every opportunity to proudly demonstrate to your network of colleagues and community leaders the value of PAs!
- Share your powerful stories which demonstrate how PAs Go Beyond every day. If you or a colleague have a story to share, please contact our Communications Department at
Nothing is more powerful in demonstrating PA value in today’s modern healthcare ecosystem than your personal story of caring for your patients!

**AAPA Conference on Demand**

**AAPA Conference on Demand 2022** offers 140+ credits of AAPA Category 1 CME. This comprehensive digital library of video-based clinical and professional CME includes topics such as behavioral and mental health, diabetes, nutrition, and obesity care, rules of reimbursement, research in action, and much more.

**Quick Links**

- Previous Speaker’s Updates
- 2022-23 Elected Delegate List
- 2022-23 Resolution Guidelines
- 2022-23 Policy Paper Guidelines
- 2022-23 HOD Apportionment (Nashville HOD)
- 2022 Summary of Actions
- 2022 HOD Category II CME Certificate
- HOD Home Page or [www.aapa.org/hod](http://www.aapa.org/hod)

Thank you for all you do for the profession and for the Academy.

Best,

Todd Pickard, MMSc, PA-C, DFAAPA, FASCO
Speaker of the House and Vice President of AAPA